

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ACCRA 00264 111518Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 /062 W

-----117604 112352Z /64

R 111357Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1751

C O N F I D E N T I A L ACCRA 0264

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, PGOV, SHUM, GH

SUBJ: GOG REPEALS UNION GOVERNMENT DECREE

REF: ACCRA 9495

1. AFTER PUBLIC OPPOSITION FORCED GOG TO "CLARIFY" ITS DECREE QUASHING SUITS AGAINST A GOON SQUAD WHICH BROKE UP AN ANTI-GOVERNMENT RALLY (REFTTEL), GOG DECIDED TO REPEAL DECREE ENTIRELY. A DECREE DATED DECEMBER 28 STATES THAT "THE UNION GOVERNMENT (CIVIL PROCEEDINGS) DECREE. . . IS HEREBY REPEALED" BUT GIVES NO REASONS. TEXT OF REPEAL DECREE BECAME AVAILABLE ONLY ON JANUARY 10.

2. COMMENT: WE UNDERSTAND THAT CHIEF JUSTICE APALOO AND NRC AFFAIRS COMMISSIONER BUCKMAN LED THE IN-HOUSE OPPOSITION TO ORIGINAL DECREE AND WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR TURNING AROUND HEAD OF STATE ACHEAMPONG ON THIS SUBJECT. A LOCAL LAWYER TELLS US THAT SUITS FILED BY BAR ASSOCIATION AGAINST GOON SQUAD AND ITS HIGH LEVEL BACKERS WILL NOW GO FORWARD, HOPEFULLY WITHOUT FURTHER GOG INTERFERENCE. WHILE ACHEAMPONG MAY BE A BIT EMBARRASSED IF SOME OF HIS PROTEGES (NOTABLY S.O. LAMPTEY, SPECIAL AIDE TO HEAD OF STATE AND ACCRA REGIONAL CHAIRMAN OF THE LEFTIST PEACE AND SOLIDARITY CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 ACCRA 00264 111518Z

COUNCIL) END UP ON TRIAL, HE PROBABLY SEES THIS AS A LESSER EVIL THAN LETTING DECREE STAND UNALTERED OR TRYING TO EXPLAIN IT AWAY. INDEED, WE HEAR THAT LAMPTEY, IN ORDER TO PROTECT HIMSELF, PUSHED ORIGINAL DECREE THROUGH THE WORKS QUICKLY AND WITHOUT GETTING USUAL CLEARANCES OR CONSIDERING ITS POLITICAL FALLOUT. WE THEREFORE SPECULATE THAT ACHEAMPONG MIGHT ENJOY

SEEING LAMPTEY IN THE DOCK FOR A WHILE AS A FITTING
PUNISHMENT FOR HIS BUREAUCRATIC END-RUN. WHOLE
INCIDENT REFLECTS ANTAGONISMS AND JOCKEYING FOR
POSITION AMONGST SOME OF ACHEAMPONG'S CLOSEST POLITICAL
ADVISERS. SMITH

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 11 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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TAGS: PINT, PINS, PGOV, SHUM, GH
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